



CITY OF SELAH

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Good Afternoon,

I want to respond to those that sent us letters expressing your disappointment in the statements of Mr. Wayman regarding the Black Live Matter march. I also want to thank you for taking the time to participate and communicate with us, as your elected council. Too often too many people simply don't take the time to express their opinions with us who serve you.

I've taken the comments seriously, and I've done some research on the Black Lives Matter organization as well as reviewed the newspaper article and Facebook post. I'd like to address the main complaints I received. It is my belief that some people participating in the march and supporting the march are without an understanding of the underlying principles of the Black Lives Matter movement.

First though, I'd like to address the accusation that Mr. Wayman was intending to intimidate the BLM protestors by mentioning many people in Selah have carry conceal permits. Everyone needs to understand, the rumors of violent outbreaks in rural areas and suburbs were quite prevalent leading up to the march. One doesn't have to look very far West to see what happens when people with unhealthy motives use a peaceful march as camouflage to instigate violence and vandalism. Selah police and Mr. Wayman would have been remis in their duty to protect the citizens and our businesses had they not prepared for such a possibility.

Regarding Mr. Wayman's statement about BLM being based on Neo-Marxism. Frankly, I had to do some research on Neo-Marxism. Explaining Neo-Marxism isn't an easy philosophy to explain, but I found this online in the Urban Dictionary when comparing Marxism to neo-Marxism. "Instead of the dichotomy being between wealthy and poor (ie Marxism), it is between successful and unsuccessful demographics. Neo-Marxists divide all demographics (white, black, asian, male, female, gay, straight, etc) and place them in a hierarchy of oppression as determined by how successful that demographic is." Using that statement as a basis, and reviewing BLM's own website, BLM policies fall well into Neo-Marxist philosophy. Whether or not being called a neo-Marxist is seen as a negative would all depend on your point of view.

As to Mr. Wayman's opinion of the march sounding like Communist Indoctrination. BLM has a plan they call "A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom and Justice,". In that plan there are 6 core demands. The 4th core demand is, and I quote, "Economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure our communities have collective ownership, not merely access." That is a basic principle of communism. And again, if that is a negative or positive would all depend on your point of view.

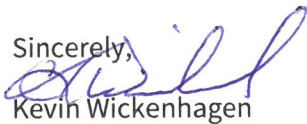
We have seen the culmination of some of these protests in the call for defunding the police. Again, I've reviewed and read what "defund" means and once again, it all depends on the source. Regardless, Mr. Wayman, and I believe the rest of the city council strongly support our Selah Police Department. Protest or marches that may discredit or demonize our officers won't get a glowing endorsement from Mr. Wayman or myself.



I have endeavored to pattern my view on race based on the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who dreamed his children wouldn't be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. But that attitude no longer seems to fit in with current political climate. We are told we must end racism, but the very group that calls for it, calls special attention to it. We are told we must see everyone the same, but "all lives matter" is insensitive. The same groups that calls for the end of racism request special resources for minority programs. It is a time where stating you're not racist is immediately called into question and no amount of evidence seems to change minds, based on you're the race of the person saying it.

Those of you who marched, I applaud you on marching for something you believe in. The death of a man at the hands of law enforcement should always be highly scrutinized. Those of you who wrote letters voicing your concerns, I applaud you and thank you. However, the fact that Mr. Wayman said somethings others didn't like shouldn't disqualify him from his duties, that would be a very slippery slope. Is that what you really want in your government, voiceless souls that move in the direction of the loudest voices? Some letters asked that Mr. Wayman apologize. I for one, will not ask a man to apologize for expressing his views in a private conversation, just as I wouldn't ask any of our citizens to apologize for expressing their views about Mr. Wayman.

Sincerely,



Kevin Wickenhagen

Selah Councilmember Pos. 1

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/black-lives-matter-releases-policy-agenda-n620966>

